National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property
   Historic name  Holy Family Catholic Church
   Other names/site number  Old Holy Family Church, R.C. Church, German Church of the Holy Family;
   KHR1# 045-1730-00002

2. Location
   Street & number  911 East Ninth Street (301 East Ninth, legal description)  NA  not for publication
   City or town  Eudora  NA  vicinity
   State  Kansas  Code  KS  County  Douglas  Code  45  Zip code  66025-0151

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
   I hereby certify that this  X  nomination  _  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
   In my opinion, the property  X  _  meets  _  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
   _ national  _ statewide  _ local  Applicable National Register Criteria: _ A  _ B  _ C  _ D

   Signature of certifying official/Title  Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO  Date
   Kansas State Historical Society
   State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

   In my opinion, the property _ meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria.

   Signature of commenting official  Date
   Title
   State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification
   I hereby certify that this property is:
   _ entered in the National Register  _ determined eligible for the National Register
   _ determined not eligible for the National Register  _ removed from the National Register
   _ other (explain:)

   Signature of the Keeper  Date of Action
Holy Family Catholic Church
Douglas County, Kansas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private  
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: Religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

RELIGION: Religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: sandstone
walls: STONE: sandstone
roof: ASPHALT shingle
other: 
Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary
Constructed in 1864 and with changes and additions over the next 40 years, the sandstone Holy Family Catholic Church on lots 1, 2, and 3, in Block 204 at the southwest corner and where Ninth and Church Streets faces Ninth Street to the north in a residential neighborhood southeast of downtown Eudora in Douglas County, Kansas. The church is located a block northeast of the 2-acre Holy Family Catholic Cemetery first used in 1872. This oldest known extant German-Catholic church in Kansas is one of a few nineteenth-century stone buildings in the Eudora Township. The church's exterior walls are faced with patterned sandstone interspersed with 18 pointed-arch windows that reflect the Gothic Revival architectural style evident also in the square stone tower and cupola. While the Gothic Revival spire on the steeple was removed, the original glass windows have been replaced with stained glass, also a Gothic Revival characteristic. The L-plan church features a gabled roof with composition shingles and an average slope. The current interior, exterior, and surrounding site conditions of the property are in excellent condition, and the building retains its historic integrity and character-defining features.

Elaboration

Setting and Overview
The church is located in the center of lots 1, 2, and 3, in Block 204, which was donated by Mr. & Mrs. Tegder, Mr. & Mrs. Hartig. The Hartigs also donated two acres for the cemetery, a block northeast of the church. The surrounding environment is standard density single-family dwellings in the neighborhood east of commercial Main Street in Eudora containing a mix of housing styles dating from the later nineteenth century to the 1960s.

North of the church is Ninth Street and a residence (c.1900) located at 838 Church Street. To the west is Church Street, and to the south is a residence (c.1900) at 916 Church Street. Directly east of the church is an alley and the rectory. The church is a block southwest of the 1963-Holy Family Church, 820 Birch Street, and two blocks from the 2015-Holy Family Church, 409 E Eighth Street. The Eudora Catholic Cemetery that marks the eastern edge of Eudora, north of Tenth Street (the former Highway 10, now CR 442, built in 1935).

Within the church property and surrounding the building is an open grassy lawn and nine mature trees, including four, evenly spaced on the northern edge. Landscaping has been kept to a minimum. City sidewalks front the church and line the west side of the property. The church has its own sidewalk to the entry that extends in a y-pattern on the east side. An alley 40' from the church separates the church from the current parsonage.

The Holy Family Catholic Church features an L-plan and a gabled, composition-shingled roof with an average slope. The original church was rectangular in plan until it was expanded with an 18' by 18' one-room sacristy in 1891 on the church's southeast corner, and a 26' by 20' southern addition vestibule in 1896. The original building is of masonry sandstone construction quarried from John Kellerman's quarry to the east of Eudora City limits. The mortar was made from sand from the nearby Kansas River, and parishioners Casper Weber and Franz Blechel, dressed most of the stone, while others


2The Deed Book, LM, March 13, 1865, 287 [and original abstract].

helped lay the stone atop the church's regular coursed masonry elevations. William Gordon, a local bricklayer and masonry contractor who inspected the church in 2019, said the church is "solid rock and the original church had sandstone sills and limestone arch pieces." Later additions were all sandstone with sills and arch pieces made of white limestone. Several of the members were expert cabinet makers, and so they built the 18 Gothic-arched wood fixed-windows.

Exterior:
Main Façade/North Elevation
The north elevation contains the tower and steeple, which protrude several feet north from the building's main walls. Gordon said the arch over the tower door appears to be limestone, and the window above the entrance must have been in the gable end of the original church and moved outside in the tower. Sills and arches appear to be sandstone. The main entrance on the north elevation is in the middle of the tower with a set of wooden double-doors (featuring two crosses) with an arched frame tympanum and a stained-glass window with the lettering "Holy Family." There is a single pointed-arched window on either side of the entry and one above the double-doors. Each of these windows contains stained glass windows that were added in 1942, replacing the original windows. The windows all feature a stone arched-window hood. Above the tower window is a stone carving indicating "1897" the year the tower was added to the building. On the church exterior, plexiglass covers the stained glass windows, including the north-facing tower window, above the entry door and one on each tower side; six east-facing windows; a rear, south-facing window with a pattern similar to the original windows with five-framed inserts surrounding a rounded, triangular shape; and seven on the west, including one on the curved back addition. Most of the wooden window frames consist of a white rectangular-framed lower section with a white framed arched semi-circle.

The tower features a hipped roof that leads up to a small 6’ tall wooden framed steeple with fish-scale shingles covering most of the sides, while diamond-shaped shingles cover the rest. All sides are painted white, as is the simple 5’ tall wooden cross on the steeple's top. The steeple features a pair of rounded-arched louvered vents on each side. The tower's hipped roof also displays decorative brackets under the eaves. In 1901, iron rods were added to the east and west walls.

Other Elevations
Both east and west elevations feature six pointed-arch wood and stained-glass windows. All the windows match those on the main façade unless otherwise noted. There are no other decorative details on these two sides. The east elevation features a brick chimney that replaced earlier chimneys. Also, the sacristy addition is located on the east elevation. It features one window on its north side and a single wooden door within a recessed pointed-arch opening. The south elevation features the apse and sacristy addition. The apse is a solid stone masonry wall, and there is one window within the center of the sacristy addition. These three elevations also lack any ornamentation.

Interior:
The interior of the building features Nu-Wood pressed fiberboards that mimic a pale pink/tan finished sandstone with wainscoting running along each wall below the windows. Separating the floor from the wainscoting is 2" wood quarter-round molding. Each window is framed in white stone, acting as decoration, and the floors are covered in carpeting. The ceiling is covered in small square acoustical tiles, and speakers and lighting have been installed.

Bell Tower and Steeple
North of the choir loft, a set of double doors leads to the bell tower. A stained-glass window depicting a harp is on the north wall of the bell tower. The lower part of the bell tower is 6' wide x 7' long x 10' high. The upper part of the bell

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4William Gordon, in notes given to Cindy Higgins after inspection, December 18, 2019. Gordon checked interior cracks to determine rock depth. He surmised the rock was initially plastered in interior and covered with acoustical tile to cover the cracked plaster.


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tower is 6' wide by 6' and 4" long with 6' feet stone walls at the base and is accessed by a built-in ladder. A wood frame steeple with wood siding rises above the stone walls 10' to the roof area that rises another 2' to the highest interior point of the tower. The south wall of the upper bell tower has access to the church attic. The exact removal date of the original 60' steeple is not known. However, there are multiple accounts of its removal in the 1950s, whether, by tornado, storm damage, or deterioration is not clear. The bells remained in the wooden portion of the tower until 1965 when they were removed and installed at the newer 1963 Holy Family Church.7 At which point, Mr. Gilroy, a parishioner, repaired the wooden portion of the historic bell tower and placed a 5' cross on top in 1965.8 This wooden portion and cross remain intact.

Original Church Building
Once inside the main entrance and within the bell tower is a small narthex measuring 7' x 6'. Inside the narthex is a reveal on either side featuring two 20" by 9.5" double-framed panels sandwiching a 10" by 9.5" panel. On the opposite side of the room is another set of wooden double doors, 5' x 7.5' that open to nave (26' x 58.5'). At the nave's northern end, the choir loft (20' x 12.25') with wooden railing is accessed by a wood stairway in the northeast corner of the church. Opposite the choir loft is the confessional. At the sixth step and to the east, a small landing has two stained glass windows. All the existing stain-glass windows were installed as replacements to the original painted glass windows, which are on display now in the church. On the north wall, one window depicts the symbol for Roman Peace; the other depicts the Latin abbreviation for "Jesus Savior of Men" behind the confessional. A statue of St. Anthony currently stands along the east wall of the original church structure, Mrs. Hartig donated it in 1905 in memory of her husband Peter. Later that year, a fresco artist, "Mr. Miller," painted biblical scenes on the interior's freshly painted walls9 and probably were painted over.

On the east and west walls on either side of the two pew sections separated by the aisle, six stained glass window sets adorn the church. Windows on each side are either the same (e.g., the northernmost set that depicts the Sacred Heart of Jesus) or similarly themed. From north to south, the sets depict grapes (west wall) and wheat (east wall) followed by two sets of windows with saints' names and their symbols (Saint John, Rising Eagle, and Saint Luke, Winged Ox on the west wall, and Saint Matthew, an angel with Saint Mark, Winged Lion on the east wall). A dove with an olive branch is on the west wall and a lamb on the east wall; and (before the apse) a chalice on the west wall and a tabernacle on the east wall. Past the chalice window, a small cabinet holds anointing oil, and a statue of Saint Joseph on the right side and a statue of the Blessed Mother Mary on the left are in individual recessed areas with a 2" frame topped with a simple cross, supported by a 5" projecting shelf.

Apsé
Two steps and a 2.5' high by 5' long white communion rail on either side of apse separate the nave from the apse. Two white swinging communion rail gates (2.5' tall by 2' long) are attached to the communion rails. The trapezoidal-shaped apse, 19.5' wide at the entry and 12' wide at the back wall, has angled sides 12.25' long. On the west wall, a stained-glass window depicts the Holy Family with an infant Jesus. An enameled white altar raised one step above the rest of the apse is in the center. The east apse wall has a door leading to the sacristy 12' wide (north to south) with an entry door on the east; a small, damaged stained-glass window is above the door. A stained-glass window on the north sacristy wall depicts the Holy Trinity, while the south wall has a stained-glass window depicting St. Lawrence.

Sacristy and Altar
In 1891, an 18' by 18' one-room sacristy of sandstone that matched the church exterior was added to the church.10 It housed the altar with a 10' high round pillar on each side and was located at the back of the wall at the south end, making more room available around the altar and communion rail.11 In 1926, parishioner Frank Sommer built the current altar, a

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8Pauline Gilroy (Holy Family parishioner), interview by Janet Campbell, October 2018.
white enameled altar in the Roman style\textsuperscript{12} adorned with columns and trefoil crosses pointing to the ceiling. The altar floor was covered with mosaic linoleum tile. Statues of the Sacred Heart and St. Theresa were placed and remain in their original location.

\textbf{Basement/Furnace}

In the early 1920s, a room was dug out from under the east side of the church with an outside entrance to house the replacement furnace – originally wood burning, the furnace was converted to gas\textsuperscript{13} after natural gas became available in Eudora in 1929.\textsuperscript{14}

\textbf{1896 Addition}

Rev. Michael Simmer, in 1896, discussed a church addition\textsuperscript{15} that could accommodate the 200 church members.\textsuperscript{16} Construction on the addition commenced the next year.\textsuperscript{17} Stone was obtained from the Charles Willsdorf quarry, three miles southwest of town, to complete the 26' by 20' addition,\textsuperscript{18} which was half of the planned size, with interior plaster walls, and exists today. Double-hung, clear, six-paned windows with an arched Gothic, five-unit sunburst pattern were installed to match the other windows.

\textbf{Subsequent Alterations}

The January 1927 Sanborn map indicated that electricity had been installed in the church. However, in 1916 the City of Eudora voted to erect a transmission line to supply the city with electricity, so possibly the church had electricity installed as early as 1916. Other than Nu-Wood low-density fiberboard panels installed in the interior of the church in 1946,\textsuperscript{19} the interior of the church remained virtually unchanged throughout the 1950s and still has its 1927 polyester floor with kaolin filler and cellulose paper interior siding installed in 1946 by Grove Brothers of Axtell, Kansas.

\textbf{Restoration}

The door locked, the stained-glass windows boarded, and the 1852 bell placed in the new church, the 1864 Holy Family Catholic Church stood idle for almost 20 years. In early 1981, Kenneth von Achen, Kurt von Achen, William Gordon, Leon Gordon, Al Colman, and others met at the local Dairy Queen restaurant and formed the "Committee for Remedial Repair of Old Holy Family Church." William Gordon, Leon Gordon, and Bob Becker tuckpointed the church in 1981, and money was raised for restoration that began that year. Volunteers such as Bob Sieber repaired stained glass windows; installed new guttering and trim boards; re-shingled the bell tower; painted window frames, trim boards, bell tower, and doors; fixed flooring; stained interior woodwork; and placed a new front door on the church. A sign with the church's name made from native stone and shingles to match the church also was erected.\textsuperscript{20} Mike Becker and his father, Bob Becker, built the sign in 1988. Mike Becker said they obtained the stone from the original quarry, which John Gilroy showed them, and Bob Becker made a chisel to match the chisel lines made in the original sandstone.\textsuperscript{21} In the first decade of the twenty-first century, Father Ray Berger installed carpeting, central air and heat, several pews (although not original to the church), and a passcode lock. Currently, in 2019, the church is open for adoration at any time and mass is held on the first Saturday of each month.

\textsuperscript{12}Frank Sommer, in discussion with granddaughter Janet Campbell, 1963.
\textsuperscript{13}Jay Grosdidier (Holy Family Church parishioner from 1918-2011), in discussion with Janet Campbell, September 2009.
\textsuperscript{14}Eudora Weekly News. July 18, 1929.
\textsuperscript{15}Eudora Weekly News. December 10, 1896.
\textsuperscript{16}Jeffersonian Gazette. May 6, 1897.
\textsuperscript{17}Eudora Weekly News. April 15, 1897.
\textsuperscript{18}Lawrence Daily Journal. July 29, 1897.
\textsuperscript{19}Axtell Standard. February 7, 1946.
\textsuperscript{20}Committee for Remedial Repair of the Old Holy Family Church, Holy Family Church, 1981.
\textsuperscript{21}Mike Becker (Holy Family parishioner and stonemason), interview by Janet Campbell, December 15, 2019.
**Integrity**

The building remains in excellent condition and retains significant historic integrity. Except for carpeting and fiberboard panels, the building completely retains its original exterior and interior appearance. The addition of the bell tower and sacristy are historic alterations that were completed within the period of significance and contribute to the buildings' overall character-defining features. Its historic identity is conveyed through the retention of the original character-defining features, and its original location, setting, materials, feeling, association, and design. It is an excellent example of early church architecture and Gothic Revival style in Eudora, Kansas, with its pointed-arch windows and entry doors, tower with belfry, and other features. A popular church style in early Kansas City, Missouri, and popular between 1840-1880, Gothic Revival was a brief departure from buildings inspired by ancient Greece and Rome and reflected the public desire for buildings derived from medieval architecture.\(^{22}\)

Holy Family Catholic Church
Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)
Property is:

A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

X B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1864-1963

Significant Dates

1891, 1896, c1959

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Parishioners

Period of Significance (justification)
The original church was built in 1864 and in continuous use until 1963, when a new Holy Family Church and school were constructed across the street. The period of significance extends until 1963 to capture the multiple additions and alterations that occurred at the building and contribute to the building’s significance.

Criteria Considerations (justification)
Although the Holy Family Catholic Church is owned by a religious organization and used for religious purposes, the building meets Criteria Consideration A for religious properties. The 1864 Holy Family Catholic Church and its additions derive their primary significance as notable examples of early ecclesiastical architecture locally in Eudora and Douglas County. Also, the Church building is associated with the early settlement of Eudora.
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**Narrative Statement of Significance**
(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

**Summary**
The Holy Family Catholic Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an example of early religious architecture in Douglas County, Kansas and its Gothic Revival style. Not only is Holy Family Church one of the oldest structures in the Eudora community, church records show it is the oldest Catholic church still standing in the state of Kansas and in use. This building is also associated with the settlement of Eudora, which was a farming community that began as a German town settlement. The church reflects the community through their continual donated labor and funds by church and community members.

![Original Holy Family Church with 1889 congregation](image)

**Elaboration**

**Eudora Settlement and German Heritage**
A desirable area because of land opportunities, geographical features, and location on a heavily trafficked travel route between the east and western United States, Douglas County attracted numerous settlers. Germans, either from their home country or moving westward from their original U.S. landing site, were many of those first Douglas County settlers. In 1854, a group of German emigrants in Chicago formed a settlement company known variously as the Deutsche Ansiedlungs Verein (German Settlement Society), Neuer Ansiedlungsverein (New Settlement Association), Eudora Town Company, or Eudora Homestead Association. Unlike other German communities in Kansas (e.g., Humboldt, Bremen, Stuttgart, Olmitz, Bern), Eudora was founded as a business venture. The 600-member settlement company bought 774

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23 *Eastern Kansas Register* (October 9, 1964) mentioned its distinction as one of the oldest; Archdiocese listings of Catholic churches in Kansas show the 1859 Annunciation (20' by 30') in Baldwin was built of stone but has been razed, and St. Patrick, Atchison, also built of stone two years after Holy Family Church, still stands (see Marie Louise Krenner. "National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination: St. Patrick's Catholic Church." National Park Service, 1997).

I/2 acres in the Eudora area from Pascal Fish Jr. Mr. Fish had received his land from the U.S. government after the May 10, 1854 treaty decreed that the United Tribe of Shawnee Indians forfeit all but 200,000 acres of land. Every single man received 200 acres, of which Mr. Fish decided to use his 200 acres for land speculation purposes. To set up the city and increase the price of town lots, the company sent 16 shareholder members representing different trades and professions to Eudora with funds for buildings, furniture, six yokes of oxen, and mills for corn, grain, and lumber. The "Sixteeners" left Chicago and arrived in the city they would call Eudora on April 18, 1857. By the time Eudora was incorporated as a city under territorial laws on February 8, 1858, additional settlers also came to live in the Eudora area, and the 1860 census recorded 599 people living in Eudora Township.25

A local newspaper, the Herald of Freedom editor, wrote, "It is settled and surrounded with a large German population, who may be complimented, justly for their intelligence and energy of character."26 Throughout ensuing decades, local and regional newspapers noted Eudora's large German population with statements about German customs and activities, and events specifically spoke in German so that the entire population would understand the language.27 Several other times the community was addressed as being of German heritage and "composed of industrious thrifty people."28 In 1937, the Emporia Gazette comments on the amount of media coverage regarding the community, "Newspaper men and other early writers wrote volumes about the good, earnest, home-loving people in this little German community."29

A significant number of Eudora's first settlers were German Catholics who benefited from the established Catholic strongholds, particularly in northeast Kansas and proximity to Leavenworth.30 The Catholic church facilitated German accommodation to young Kansas communities including members of Holy Family. The Catholic church is the first known church built in Eudora, which had a congregation consisting of many original settlers of Eudora. Joseph Herz, one of the original townsite Sixteeners, and a man with the surname Piper were recorded as being the $3,000 church's principal benefactors,32 and Peter Anton Hartig and his wife Franciska Hartig donated land for the church. Hartig also was the leader of the Sixteeners sent from Chicago to establish Eudora. Other original church members included Anthony Getker (1824-1904), from Hanover who came to Eudora in the latter part of 1857 to be the town carpenter and undertaker; Franz Paul Vogl (1826-1907), born in Landgericht, Wolfstein, Germany, who settled in Eudora in May 1858 as a liveryman with his wife and ten children. William Stadler, editor of an early Eudora newspaper, wrote: "Several of the original townsmen were Catholic and those that immediately followed them such as Fred Faerber, the first mayor of Eudora, Anton Gufler [(1832-1915) who came to America from Bavaria, in 1854]; L. W. Pfeifer and Lao Vitt [from Baden].

Other early parishioner families originated in German countries, including those with the surnames of Schehrer or Pfeiffer (Alsace-Lorraine), Ziesneis (Hanover), Anton (Prussia), Prang, (Hesse-Cassel), and Bauer (Wurtermberg). Several came

26 Herald of Freedom. October 9, 1858.
27 Lawrence Tribune. September 16, 1868.; Lawrence Gazette. August 18, 1886.; Lawrence Daily Gazette. August 2, 1894
29 Emporia Gazette. May 12, 1937. (Son of original townsite memory).
32 Perl Morgan, History of Wyandotte County Kansas and its People (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1911). “Piper” could have been Louis Pfeif, (also spelled Pfeiffer) an original townster and Chicago draftsman who plotted the town into individual lots or Jacob Pfeiffer, a stone cutter, who was a trustee of the Catholic Congregation of Eudora in 1868 with Hartig and Sebastian Prang.
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from Bavaria (Hadle, Eder, Hartig, Stadler, Seiwald, Blechel, Rothberger, Sommer, Madl, Greiner), Austria (Kellerman, Weixeldorfer, Kasberger); and Baden (Speicher, Vitt, Moll).33

By 1883, the city of Eudora hosted four churches that conducted service in the German language: German Lutheran, German Methodist, [German Evangelical] United Brethren, and Holy Family, which still held confession in the German language until at least 1922.34 The association with Germany continued with the German language spoken at the Holy Family parochial school and in news items (e.g., the 1890 mention that the Eudora German Catholics had a picnic at Hartig's Grove).35

Noteworthy of the church throughout its lifespan has been the congregations' donation of labor and materials to build, expand, and maintain the church. This collaborative spirit extends to the community and non-Catholics as well, who also donated to the church, for example, the initial construction and the original bell. According to Eleanor Turk, this cooperation demonstrates that the Eudora German immigrants overcome historical regional rivalries among their transplanted churches and is evidence of the "two-stage process of community building, first among themselves, and then together with their American neighbors."36 The 1981-formed Committee for Remedial Repair of Old Holy Family Church also was comprised of community members of all religious faiths, and on Sunday, December 14, 1981, the church was opened to the public for a Christmas Community Caroling Service,37 an annual tradition that continues and is a shared church event open to all.

A brief history of Catholic settlement in Kansas

After the Indian Removal Act of 1830 forced twenty-five Eastern tribes to reservations in what would later be Kansas, the Catholic Church established six Indian missions in pre-territorial Kansas, including missions north of Fort Leavenworth for the Kickapoo in 1836, the first permanent mission in Kansas; St. Mary's; and St. Paul.38 By the time Kansas became a state in 1861, the first Catholic church had been built – 1851 log-hewn St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception; and St. Joseph's German Catholic Church (1857) with Catholic boarding school (1858) in Leavenworth.39 Overseeing the Catholic faith was the Vicar Apostolic of the Indian Territory, Bishop John Miege. First based in St. Mary's to oversee a territory that comprised an area that would be Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, and Nebraska, Miege then operated from Leavenworth and frequently visited his congregation scattered in remote areas and fledgling towns such as Lawrence that had its first Catholic church built in 1860 later replaced with a brick church in 1871.40 By 1869, 55 churches had been built in Kansas, and traveling priests visited 82 missions.41 By the time Miege resigned in 1874, 71 churches had been built in Kansas.42

34 Lawrence Gazette. February 8, 1883; German Catholic. June 20, 1889.
Besides worshipping with visiting priests, Catholics traveled to priests who held services. For instance, in Eudora, Catholics rode horseback or walked to Lawrence to attend services by a missionary priest. The trip entailed going through Blue Jacket Crossing over the Wakarusa River and through the Franklin River bottoms. Because of these exhausting, sometimes dangerous trips, in 1859, Eudora area Catholics appealed to Miege to send a missionary father to Eudora to say Mass. The bishop granted the request and sent Father Lewis Guenther, a missionary from Shawnee Mission, Kansas, and later sent Father Anton Kuhls of Leavenworth one Sunday each month to a Eudora Main Street store building owned by Jewish brothers George and John Andreas. On other Sundays during 1864, physician Carl Neumann held Catholic services in a Eudora Main Street home.

By 1863, Catholics in the Eudora area had grown in number to justify a need for a dedicated building of worship. Twenty families with a total of 32 members (that number would double in the next ten years) organized the Church of the Holy Family. Kuhls traveled 40 miles by horseback one day a month to oversee construction of their sandstone church not to exceed $3,000 in cost and to be titled "Holy Family Church."43

Initial construction of Holy Family
The church property was donated by spouses Bernhard Herman Tegder and Anna Catharina Tegder, along with Peter Anton Hartig and Franciska Hartig, to John B. Meige, Catholic bishop of Leavenworth.44 Hartig also donated two acres for the cemetery two blocks east considered for many decades to be "just out of town."45 After sandstone was cut in John Kellerman's quarry outside the eastern city of Eudora limits, parishioners Jacob Pabst, Mike Branagan, John Welch, and James Brazil hauled the donated rock to the church site.46 With sand for mortar from the nearby Kansas River, "a band of 15,"47 including parishioners Casper Weber and Franz Blechel, who dressed most of the stone, along with several Eudora Lutherans, laid the stone atop the church’s regular coursed masonry elevations. Herz, Hartig, Kellerman, and other expert cabinet makers built the Gothic-arched windows. They also built a double-entry door with diamond-pattern carving, an arched frame enclosing a six-pane, glass sunburst topped with a stone arch, that can be seen in a March 28, 1890 image of Holy Family Young Virgins Society members. After construction of the church exterior exhausted the initial $3,000, the congregation raised additional funds to complete the interior a year later.48

(2) Image of the historic Holy Family Catholic Church

43 Perl Morgan, *History of Wyandotte County Kansas and its People* (Chicago, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1911); Cutler’s *History of the State of Kansas* states that the church was officially organized as The German Church of the Holy Family on October 1, 1864 but this is the only source found referencing that name. In October of 1864, Kuhl was sent to Wyandotte and lived in the sacristy of an 1858 brick 20’ by 40’ Catholic church long razed.
44 The Deed Book Lm March 13, 1865, 287 and also original abstract.
46 Cindy Higgins, “Where the Wakarusa Meets the Kaw,” accessed December 30, 2019, http://eudorakshistory.com/. Note: Brazil who lived eight miles south of Eudora was buried in the Deay Cemetery (Eudora Weekly News, May 11, 1911), which indicates he may not have been a parishioner.
Kellerman said to be the equal of any of expert cabinet makers in Chicago where he lived before he came to Eudora,49 made the altar with a 10' high round pillar on each side. Atop the altar was a cross that almost reached to the ceiling and behind the altar the sacristy's built-in cases and drawers stored vestments for the priest and altar boys that has been moved to the 2015 Holy Family church.50

Both Eudora's Protestants and Catholics donated funds for the purchase of the church's bell under the stipulation that it would be rung at seven, twelve, and six o'clock to signal the start of daily employment tasks.51 In 1864, the church purchased a bell in Kansas City that had been cast in 1852 at the Massachusetts foundry established by Paul Revere.52 A frame-rack was built beside the church from which the bell was suspended because the church lacked a tower to place the bell.53

Subsequent additions
The congregation, which numbered about 75 families in the 1870s,54 maintained the church, such as putting on a new roof in 1879 55 and discussed enlarging the church that had a cupola on the front roof built by parish carpenters in 1882. After his 1886 appointment, Father Gerlach attempted several times and failed to raise funds projected to total between $3,500 to $5,00056 for a new church to house the growing membership.57 Wrote the Eudora Weekly News May 30, 1889: "Arrangements are being made to erect a new Catholic Church on C. street much larger than the old one." However, Gerlach wasn't able to accomplish his goal but did have the church painted and "grained."58 He also oversaw the 1891 addition of a one-room sacristy of sandstone that matched the church exterior.59 It housed the altar, which was moved back to the wall at the south end, making more room available around the altar and communion rail.60 Built on the southeast corner of the church and the same height of the church, the addition was of small expense as Alois, George, and Stephen Hadl did the masonry work, and Franz Blechel dressed and faced the rock.

Upon the arrival of Rev. Michael Simmer in 1896, discussions began to build a church addition61 that could accommodate the 200 church members,62 a peak number that would gradually drop in ensuing decades. Construction on the addition commenced the next year.63 Parish members obtained the stone from the Charles Willsdorf quarry, three miles southwest of town, to complete an addition,64 which was half of the planned size, with interior plaster walls. Double-hung, clear, six-paned windows with an arched Gothic, five-unit sunburst pattern were installed to match existing windows. Also added were a vestibule and a 60' high steeple with a 5' cross on top that replaced the earlier steeple65 removed in 1959.66

51 Eudora Centennial Magazine (supplement to the Eudora News), 1957.  
54 Kansas Catholic. September 1, 1883.  
62 Jeffersonian Gazette. May 6, 1897.  
63 Eudora Weekly News. April 15, 1897.  
planned town clock in the steeple didn't materialize, but a new bell did.  

Valentine Anton and his wife, original town siters who moved to Lawrence, purchased a new 610-pound bell that arrived in June 1897 for placement alongside the original bell. The church was dedicated and blessed by Rev. Bishop Fink on August 11, 1897, and celebrated with a parish dinner and dance.

Church improvements continued: a "neat, substantial wire fence" around the churchyard perimeter (1898), iron running rods installed to strengthen the east and west walls (1901), and a brick wall on the church west side (1902). In 1905, a fresco artist, "Mr. Miller," painted biblical scenes on the interior's freshly painted walls. Also, in 1905, Theresa Hartig donated a statue of St. Anthony in memory of her husband Peter that remains in the original church on the east wall. Lightning struck the church steeple in 1911, and while a hole several inches in circumference was made and some shingles were torn off, no other damage was apparent. As early as 1916, the church may have had electricity installed because that is when the city of Eudora voted to erect a transmission line to supply the community with electricity. The January 1927 Sanborn map does show power installed in the church. The steeple and cross were repainted in 1922 and straightened to prevent leaning to the southwest.

According to the April 4, 1922, Holy Family Pastoral Council Minutes, Father Joseph Reich who became the pastor in 1922, was given the "go ahead with his 'new broom,'" to put a roof on the church, fix the sagging church floor, and manage other repair needs depending upon money obtained. To replace the wood-burning stove that heated the church, a room large enough to house a furnace was dug out from under the east side of the church with an outside entrance in the early 1920s. Originally wood burning, this furnace was later converted to coal, and ultimately gas after natural gas became available in Eudora in 1929.

Father Gerald Hart, the appointed pastor in 1926, led efforts to update the interior of the church and asked parishioner Frank Sommer to build a new altar, which he did in the basement of his home at 813 Maple. The white enameled altar is in the Roman style and dedicated on Palm Sunday, April 10, 1927. The altar floor also was redone, and Hart purchased statues of the Sacred Heart and St. Theresa still in the church. During the 1926-1927 interior remodel, Joe Blechel (son of the original parishioner and mason Franz Blechel) painted the original clear glass windows to resemble stained glass, a popular treatment, especially during this time when stains and paints continually were applied to glass and fired to build up color layers. Replaced with the current stained glass windows in 1942, the painted glass windows are on display now in the church.

The exact removal date of the 60' steeple cannot be pinpointed but is thought to be in 1959, as stated in the October 4, 1964, Lawrence Daily Journal World. Anecdotal information supports that period. According to an interview conducted in 2009 on the church's 150th anniversary, parishioner Jay Grosdidier remembered that a tornado struck the steeple in the mid-1950s damaging the steeple. Tom Pyle, a parishioner since 1950, stated that his brother-in-law, Carrol Shopper, tied a

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67 *Eudora Weekly News.* April 15, 1897. The clock was to strike “the hour and half hour, and be heard all over the city.”
68 *Eudora Weekly News.* June 17, 1897.
69 *Eudora Weekly News.* August 12, 1897.
70 *Eudora Weekly News.* July 7, 1898.
71 *Eudora Weekly News.* October 23, 1902.
72 *Eudora Weekly News.* September 28, 1905.
73 *Eudora Weekly News.* June 15, 1911.
74 *Eudora Weekly News.* October 19, 1922.
75 Jay Grosdidier (Holy Family Church parishioner from 1918-2011), in discussion with Janet Campbell, September 2009.
76 *Eudora Weekly News.* July 18, 1929.
77 Frank Sommer, in discussion with granddaughter Janet Campbell, 1963.
78 *Eudora Weekly News.* April 7, 1927.
rope to the steeple and brought it down.80 The bells remained in the smaller steeple until 1965, and after refurbishment by the Verdi Company of Cincinnati, they were installed in a 46' steel tower at the 1963 Holy Family Church.81 Holy Family Parishioner John Gilroy repaired the smaller portion of the bell tower and placed a 5' cross on top in 1965.82

Other than Nu-Wood low-density fiberboard panels installed by the Grove Brothers of Axtell, Kansas, in the interior of the church in 1946,83 the interior of the church remained virtually unchanged throughout the 1950s and still has its 1927 polyester floor with kaolin filler and cellulose paper interior siding. When the United States War Department announced March 25, 1942, that an ammunition plant would be built four miles east of Eudora and employ thousands of workers,84 the population of Eudora expanded tenfold, and the Holy Family Parish expanded as well. A General Campaign committee was formed in 1961 to build a new school and "temporary church" on the lower level that would eventually become a cafeteria and gymnasium when a new church was to be built three years later.85 The building was dedicated on July 21, 1963. The last mass at the original Holy Family Church was Sunday, July 14, 1963.

Holy Family Architecture

At the time the building was constructed on the eastern edge of Eudora, the stock company and others invested in Main Street businesses three blocks north and west of Holy Family, including a two-story mercantile store and storefronts housing tradesmen, i.e., shoemaker, saddler and harness maker, butcher, wagonmaker, and blacksmith. Some of these businesses such as Joseph Herz's 1859 cabinetmaking shop also were used as personal residences. On the east side of Main, a wooden fort said to be a defense structure was built around 1860. This commercial hub also contained the town's first school, which was built in 1860. Businesses between this area and the Wakarusa River were two groceries, a general store, cabinetmaking shop, and an 1862 steam flour mill. Four blocks west of Holy Family was a livery and city park area. The 1976 Eudora Community Heritage claimed several houses east of Main Street between Fifth and Tenth Street dated from the 1860s. However, an 1873 map shows less than a handful of structures in this area, which could be attributed to the empty lots held by absentee Chicago company owners wanting to sell lots when they increased in value as the town grew.

In 1964, the church's age distinction was noted by several Kansas newspapers in the church's centennial year, e.g., *Eastern Kansas Register* (October 9, 1964). That same year, the February 9 *Salina Journal* ran an article about Monsignor Vincent LeMoine's claim that St. Patrick's in Chapman, Kansas, could be the oldest Catholic church in Kansas because it had an 1864 completion date but so did "a church in Eudora." A June 11, 2008, tornado razed St. Patrick's in Chapman, thus, eliminating its distinction as the oldest Catholic church still standing.86 LeMoine, in that article, also said that the stone-built St. Patrick's Church in Atchison "has long claimed to be the oldest in existence" even though records and its National Register of Historic Places nomination show it was completed in 1865 or 1866.87 Archdiocese listings of Catholic churches in northeast Kansas show Holy Family to be the oldest Kansas Catholic church,88 which can be attributed to its

80 Tom Pyle (Holy Family parishioner), interview by Janet Campbell, October 2018.
82 Pauline Gilroy (Holy Family parishioner), in discussion with Janet Campbell, October 2018.
84 *Lawrence Journal World*. March 25, 1942.
86 On-site memorial and “St. Michael Catholic Church,” accessed December 13, 2019 from http://www.smchapmanparish.org/history.html. Parishioners began construction of this church in 1861. Also, a simple structure made of stone, this church lacked the Gothic Revival traits of the original Holy Family Church in Eudora.
border location on westward trails in a community with a small population that didn't need to replace the church until 1963 and then maintained the church property.

In 1864, there were no other churches within the community. However, throughout the 1860s-1870s other denominational churches began to appear. Two structures to the north of Holy Family were Salem Evangelical Church and St. Paul Evangelical Church, both built around 1870. Salem Evangelical was constructed of brick in 1869 and measures approximately 26' by 40'; it was also referred to as All Brights German Evangelical Church.

St. Paul Evangelical Church was also constructed with brick, measured approximately 25' x 40' and was built in 1871. They were soon joined by the English Methodist Church, Colored Baptist Church, and Black Methodist Church. Other early churches initially used wood instead of stone or brick, e.g., the 1880 Clearfield United Methodist Church; Hesper Friends Church; the Baptist, Methodist, and interdenominational churches for the Black population; and the 1881 German Methodist 36' by 44' church less than a block away from Holy Family. In overall exterior construction, Holy Family is like the many native stone, one-room schoolhouses in Kansas, such as Rocky Ford or Buck Creek and rural churches such as the German Lutheran by Lawrence and Wamego's Beecher Bible and Rifle Church. It also echoes the style of the 1866 St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Atchison County.

The first buildings in Eudora were made of lumber hauled from nearby cities, freighted by rail, or processed at the sawmill set up by the Wakarusa River during Eudora's founding. Another locally available building material, stone—individual surface stones or quarried blocks—was easily available and often free from the numerous stonecrops and quarries in the area. Some early stonemasons in Eudora's first three decades were Mathias Riddle, Jacob Pfeiffer, Casper Weber, Franz Blechel, Frank Schaeffer, Ferdinand Weichseldorfer, and George Amend. Often less expensive than brick or lumber, the area's limestone and sandstone still can be seen in area houses (e.g., 710 Church and 619 Main Street Terrace); downtown buildings (e.g., IOOF Building); retaining walls; and farm buildings. Stone buildings that no longer exist that date to the 1860s include the 24' by 40', the two-story stone school between Seventh Street and Sixth Street on the east side of Church Street in Eudora and the 1864 Roscoe school, five miles south of Eudora and 1865 Bluemound school. Once lumber became more available with the building of Charles Lothholz's 1868 lumberyard at Sixth Street and Oak Street, and George Stadler began producing brick in the latter 1860s south of Fifth Street along the Wakarusa River between Church Street and Ash Street, more lumber and brick buildings appeared in the fledgling town of Eudora. Holy Family is exceptional because it is an example of a once-common building style for early Kansas churches and schools that is now uncommon.

**Conclusion**

The Gothic style of architecture developed after the Medieval period Romanesque style. Gothic Architecture has been a staple of the Catholic religion since its development in the Middle Ages in Europe, beginning in France. The style and design are most often associated with churches and were more specifically developed as part of the Catholic religion. Typical characteristics include high vaulted ceilings, the use of the pointed arch among openings and as an accent, stained glass, flying buttresses, and at least one steeple. This elaborate and flamboyant design evolved with its revitalization in the mid-nineteenth century to a more simplified version. Part of the picturesque and romantic architectural movements, Gothic Revival architecture became reinterpreted within secular design for residences, rural settings, and natural landscapes. Standard elements of the Gothic Revival style include parapets, tracery windows, pointed-arch openings, irregular shares, and decorative trims. The Holy Family Catholic Church is a vernacular interpretation of the Gothic Revival style featuring Gothic pointed-arches, tracery windows, steeple, and arched openings. It is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival style in Eudora and reflects the key elements within the style. The building retains its character-defining features and has good integrity.

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Holy Family Catholic Church
Douglas County, Kansas

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Kansas Daily Tribune. Lawrence, Kansas Territory.


Lawrence Daily Gazette. Lawrence, Kansas.

Lawrence Daily Journal. Lawrence, Kansas.
Holy Family Catholic Church          Douglas County, Kansas
Name of Property                                  County and State

_Lawrence Daily Journal-World._ Lawrence, Kansas.

_Lawrence Gazette._ Lawrence, Kansas.

_Lawrence Gazette._ Lawrence, Kansas.

_Lawrence Tribune._ Lawrence, Kansas.


Perl Morgan, _History of Wyandotte County Kansas and its People_ (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1911).


Pyle, Tom. (Holy Family parishioner), interview by Janet Campbell, October 2018.


_The Deed Book_, LM, March 13, 1865, 287 [and also original abstract].


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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey 

**a location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: ________________________________

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): ______________________________________________________________ _______

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property**  Less than one acre __________

**Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.**

(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: __________

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

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Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundaries include the property located within the lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, in Block 204 (200 x 100) in the town of Eudora. The property is bounded on the north by Ninth Street, the west by Church Street, the east by an alley, and the south by property lines.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries include all property historically associated with the 1864 Holy Family Church, which includes the lots.
List of Figures:

**Figure 1**: 1927 Sanborn Map

**Figure 2**: 1873 Map showing “R.C. Church” on C Street
Holy Family Catholic Church
Douglas County, Kansas

Maps:
Topographic Overview Map
Aerial Overview Map
Property Boundary Map
Photo Map Exterior
Photo Map Interior

Figure 2
Holy Family Catholic Church

911 (301) E 9th St
Eudora, Douglas County, Kansas
Holy Family Catholic Church
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State
**Photographs**

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<td>Oblique of main and west elevation</td>
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<td>View of west elevation</td>
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<td>View from tower first-floor</td>
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<td>S</td>
<td>View of apse from sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
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<td>View of balcony</td>
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<tr>
<td>#16</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>View of balcony stair</td>
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<td>NW</td>
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<td>Overview of stained glass windows</td>
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<td>Overview of the sanctuary from the balcony</td>
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<td>Closeup of one stained glass window</td>
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<td>Door in sacristy</td>
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<td>View of the sacristy</td>
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<td>#27</td>
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<td>View looking across the street to the new church building, cemetery, and school</td>
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Holy Family Catholic Church
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Photo 1

Photo 2
Holy Family Catholic Church
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State
Holy Family Catholic Church
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Photo 5

Photo 6
Holy Family Catholic Church
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Photo 7

Photo 8
Holy Family Catholic Church
Douglas County, Kansas

Name of Property
County and State

Photo 9

Photo 10
Holy Family Catholic Church

Douglas County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

Photo 11

Photo 12

Photo 13
Holy Family Catholic Church
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Photo 14

Photo 15
Holy Family Catholic Church

Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas

County and State

Photo 16

Photo 17
Holy Family Catholic Church

Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas

County and State
Holy Family Catholic Church
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State
Holy Family Catholic Church
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Photo 27